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NEWS

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AREA CHILDREN HONORED FOR CALENDAR ART WORK

With colorful pictures of houses, playgrounds, churches and farm fields found in their communities, 12 area children drew their way onto the pages of the 2003-2004 PSEG Nuclear LLC Emergency Planning Calendar.

The young artists were recognized May 22 at an awards ceremony luncheon hosted by PSEG Nuclear and Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA). Winners in this year's calendar art contest are Max Manerchia, Michael Royston and Michael Scully, Cedar Lane Elementary School; Emma Njogur and Jesus Loya, Silver Lake Elementary School; Lauren Camp and Mary-Claire Ball, St. Anne's Episcopal School; Morgan Parsons, Calvin Ross and Sarai Starkey, Southern Elementary School; and Jael Cuevas and Naiya Johnson, Townsend Elementary School.

The youngsters are second, third and fourth graders from five schools in the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ), the area within a 10-mile radius of the nuclear power plants in New Jersey. Each year, PSEG and DEMA hold contests in their respective states to choose artwork for the annual calendar. The calendar is provided to schools, residents and businesses within the EPZ.

The calendar includes instructions to follow in case of an emergency at the power plant and maps of the zones within the EPZ. Important phone numbers, radio stations, bus evacuation routes and student relocation centers are also listed.

The theme for the 2003-2004 calendar, My Community, brought pictures of pets, kids playing ball, swinging and riding bikes, families working on houses and tending gardens, and neighbors meeting at church. American flags, rainbows and hands joined in fellowship illustrated individual creations of what community means to these local elementary school students.

Welcoming the young artists, their families and school officials to the annual Calendar Awards Ceremony, DEMA Deputy Director Glenn Gillespie said this year's calendar art is some of the best judges have seen. He was joined in the presentations by Department of Public Safety Sec. James L. Ford and David Burgin, Preparedness and Public Affairs Manager, PSEG Nuclear. Ford and Burgin gave each winner a PSEG backpack, a monetary gift and a certificate of accomplishment.

Calendars beginning with the fall school year 2003 through summer of 2004 will be available in September. For information on the calendars or the Delaware Radiological Emergency Planning program, call 302-659-3362.

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